

Whereas, Al Davies has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and Whereas, Al Davies was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Al Davies always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Al Davies on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH FORK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF PENDLETON COUNTY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor South Fork Volunteer Fire Department of Pendleton County, West Virginia which will be celebrating its 45th anniversary.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated December 6, 1962. Those serving as the first officers were President: Herald Williams, Vice-President: Fred Williams, Secretary: Carl Nesselrodt, and Treasurer: Orville Gum; and the original members also included Marvin Hartman, Albert Joseph, Sheridan Layman, Harold Miller, Harold Wilson, and Mervin Zirk. The formation of the fire department would not be possible without community involvement; the land and materials used for the construction of the original firehouse were all donated, many by the original members and officers.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department has expanded its facilities, equipment, and operations over its 45 year span. Construction was completed on March 20, 2004 for a new firehouse located on Route 21. South Fork Volunteer Fire Department now boasts 35 volunteer members, 15 auxiliary members, and has a fleet of six vehicles.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the past and current members of South Fork Volunteer Fire Department for providing safety to our citizens in times of emergency and dire need. Our first responders and volunteer fire departments represent the best of our communities.

I extend congratulations to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and all of those who have been involved with 45 successful years of serving and protecting the community of Brandywine.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR DOCUMENTARY TEXAS WETLANDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the students and faculty of the Lamar University Department of Communication for their work on Texas Wetlands, a

documentary film underlining the importance of Texas Wetlands to our nation's ecosystem. This film was recently awarded first place in the student/amateur category at the North American Association for Environmental Education/Pierce Foundation Environmental Education Film and Video Festival. This prestigious award granted the documentary the opportunity to be premiered last week at the NAAEE's Annual Conference.

Wetlands can be found up and down the 360 miles of Texas' sprawling Gulf Coast. Many of these wildlife sanctuaries are located in or just outside the Second Congressional District. Lamar students and professors along with 42 middle and high school students traveled to wetland areas in the Big Thicket, Shangri La, and the JD Murphee Wild Life Management Area to capture footage for their award winning documentary. Students, with the guidance of their professors in the Communications Department, wrote, edited, did the videography and appeared as reporters in the film.

Lamar University and its students, who I am proud to represent, continue to achieve in all areas of higher learning. Recognizing the importance of Texas' natural resources, Lamar University has taken a proactive approach in preserving these wetlands. Soon our country will need to look to a new generation of leaders to help her face adversity, both foreign and domestic. I am confident that these leaders will emerge from the halls of Lamar University.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL WATKINS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watkins for her 46 years of public service to the people of Northeast Ohio.

Carol began her career in 1960 at the Cleveland Downtown Social Security Field Office. She held many positions at the office over the years, including Clerk Stenographer, Executive Secretary, Management Analyst, Administrative Officer and Group Supervisor. In 1984, she accepted the appointment of Hearing Office Director at the Cleveland Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure at the Cleveland ODAR, Carol has worked with over thirty Administrative Law Judges and has been recognized many times for her tireless dedication. Under her leadership, the Cleveland ODAR had received several national and regional awards as well as recognition from the legal and charity communities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Carol Watkins for her lifetime commitment to serving the Cleveland community through her career with the Social Security Administration. May her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration for us all.

HONORING LARRY DITO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has literally changed the face of one of the largest cities in my district. Larry Dito has for 35 years directed the parks, recreation and community services program for the City of Novato. On a small budget, using good old-fashioned teamwork and cooperation, Larry has enriched the lives of skateboarders, dog owners, seniors and teens by creating new buildings, new parks and new opportunities, as well as renovating older ones and making them usable.

From his first days here, in 1972, Larry gather a small, loosely-banded group of rural folks and formed it into a community.

"He developed the mission of the department to enrich community life," says Jennifer Goldfinger, assistant to the city manager. "And that's really what he's been all about."

Larry accomplished this by convincing people to work together for the greater good. Members of Rotary, Elks, schools and neighborhoods pitched in to realize the vision of a community where all its citizens could enjoy living there.

"He is known for creating partnerships," Goldfinger explains. "He's very good at bringing people together." And those same people extol his virtues. He is universally liked and admired.

"I cannot think of a negative thing about him," notes Nancy Sangster, who, as a former parks and recreation commissioner, worked with Larry for years and still considers him a friend. "Any good word you can find in the dictionary, you can say about him."

High praise, perhaps, but Larry has earned it. Thanks to his work, Novato seniors have the Margaret Todd Senior Center. Because of Larry's ability to build consensus with other organizations, Novato teens have a place to hang out—the Novato Teen Center. With Larry's help and guidance in engineering a joint project, the City's children have the Novato Gymnastics Center, the skate park, the Hill gym, and a full complement of girls' sports programs and after school athletics.

But Larry has not just created new programs and facilities; he has also given new life to the old. He spearheaded the renovation of the Indian Valley College swimming pool, as well as the outdoor ball fields there.

Sangster adds to the list the Hamilton reuse projects at the old Hamilton Air Force Base. Here, Larry had the pool and amphitheater renovated for activities, programs and plays the entire county can participate in.

His tireless efforts have also resulted in a number of small alterations in the city—improvements that most people didn't notice, but that affected the lives of many. For example, it was Larry who convinced concerned homeowners that allowing the upgrade of neighborhood parks to make them ADA accessible would actually benefit them, as well.

"He always found groups to help build, so that much of the labor was donated," Sangster explains. "He knows how to bring out the best in everybody."

And this list doesn't begin to include all Larry's accomplishments.

Across the freeway from the giant Novato shopping center called Vintage Oaks runs a brackish haven for water fowl, lined with cat-tails and, on the weekends, cars of the many visitors. Rescued from developers who would have turned it into condos, this lovely marsh attracts birds, frogs, snakes, people and dogs. For commuters stuck in the nightmare traffic that lines the freeway to the east, Scottsdale Marsh is a reminder of to relax.

It is also, says Sangster, one of the most outstanding such projects in the United States.

How did one man accomplish so much? He works long hours, yes, but even more, he knows how to lead. Larry's sparkling personality brings people together and puts them at ease. They recognize he is genuine. Sangster explains that he is not only a good delegator, but he inspires confidence in others to make decisions—and they are good decisions. He expects the best and people rise to the occasion.

In addition to his dedication to the City of Novato, Larry is a devoted family man who assumed leadership responsibility for his own children's sports groups as they were growing up. And he's the kind of friend who is always there to help out.

"He always puts his friends above his personal plans," Sangster says, recounting how 10 years ago, Larry and his wife gave up travel plans for their anniversary in order to attend her husband's funeral. "Everybody is important to him."

Madam Speaker, every part of the City of Novato bears the stamp of Larry Dito's efforts to improve life for every member of the community—young, old, wealthy, working-class or needy, athlete or amateur. But even more, the residents of Novato carry the legacy of this man's example—that one person can be the catalyst for change to create a community.

And that, Madam Speaker, is why I honor Larry Dito on his retirement, after 35 years in service to a community forever in his debt.

MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Improve & Expand Small Business Assistance Programs for Veterans Act of 2007. America's veterans have given their best for this country, for the freedoms that we cherish so much, and we must give them our best in return.

This legislation would expand the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development in order to facilitate better business outreach to our Nation's veterans. The legislation requires that the SBA open two additional Veterans' Outreach offices in the coming year and expand opportunities for women veterans. It would also allow veterans to obtain reduced fee SBA loans.

Approximately 5 percent of the 80 million small businesses in this country are owned by veterans. Veteran-owned small businesses have a higher success rate than other small

businesses, perhaps because of the strong work ethic and value system that the military imbues in its soldiers. I support this legislation because it will help veterans to enter and compete in today's business world, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEAN AGUILLEN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dean Aguillen, an intelligent individual who has been on Speaker PELOSI's staff since 2002. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, he most recently served as a Senior Adviser and Director of Member Services in the Speaker's office. Dean's hard work, dedication, and skills are the reasons why he was so respected by his colleagues and Members.

I had the pleasure of knowing Dean over the last several years. Dean attended the weekly Congressional Hispanic Caucus, CHC, luncheons to give our caucus a House update and he proved to always be responsive to our needs. He was a valuable player in the Speaker's office and he represented her well before the CHC. He has made a lasting impression on the CHC and I commend Dean for his commitment to this country and to the Latino community.

While I am sad to see Dean leave, I am confident that the future will bring him much success. I wish Dean good health and the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. Buena suerte Dean.

RECOGNIZING NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, Ohio is known for football. Many players from the State's two NFL teams, and our No. 1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes have been playing football in Ohio since childhood. The rich football tradition was again highlighted in my district, as I am proud to recognize Newark Catholic High School as Division VI State champions.

Head Coach Bill Franks's team didn't have an easy road to get the championship title, it was a road paved with hard work and determination. This wasn't the first trip to the big game for Newark Catholic, as they have seven State titles under their belt. Even with a strong team, the competition was harder than ever this season. Newark Catholic had gigantic wins over both the second and sixth place teams, which earned them a ticket to the championship game against an unbeaten Bascom Hopewell-Loudon.

I feel honored to represent such a rich history of football at this high school. Newark Catholic won its first title back in 1978 and since then the Green Wave has claimed six championship titles. There is even a book telling the story of the exceptional football program at this high school titled, "Growing Up

Green: Newark Catholic Football and the 1985 State Championship."

After the 28–14 win on December 1, the school can proudly display their eighth title win. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this football program.

Congratulations to all of the coaches, players, families and community.

CONGRATULATING NELLE HARPER LEE ON THE OCCASION OF BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor one of the most beloved residents of Alabama, Miss Nelle Harper Lee, on the occasion of her receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

A native of Monroeville, Alabama, Miss Lee began her writing career at the University of Alabama where she wrote for student publications and served for one year as the editor of a campus humor magazine. She moved to New York City in 1950 where she worked as a reservations clerk with Eastern Air Lines and BOAC.

In 1956, Miss Lee found an agent, and soon after, she began the draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The novel was published on July 11, 1960, and became an immediate bestseller. She won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel, and in a 1999, poll run by the Library Journal, her novel was voted "Best Novel of the Century."

In 1966, Miss Lee was named to the National Council of Arts by President Johnson, and since that time, she has received many honorary doctorate degrees for her outstanding contributions to literature.

Madam Speaker, Miss Lee's masterpiece *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a model of literary achievement that has become an American classic. Its pages spoke a strong message of honor and tolerance during our Nation's struggle for equality. So, from one native south Alabamian to another, please accept my heartfelt expression of pride—on behalf of all of us who, over the years, have been touched in some way by "Mockingbird."

It is only appropriate that I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Miss Nelle Harper Lee on receiving this award. I know her sisters—Louise Lee Conner and Alice Lee—her family and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that President George W. Bush's remarks in honor of Miss Lee made at the ceremony for the 2007 Medal of Freedom recipients be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

PRESIDENT BUSH HONORS MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS, EAST ROOM—NOVEMBER 5, 2007

THE PRESIDENT. Good morning. Laura and I are thrilled to welcome you to the White House. We welcome the members of Congress, the members of the Cabinet, and other distinguished guests. It's an honor to be with the Medal of Freedom recipients, as well as their family members and friends. We're sure glad you're here.